EXECUTIVE SESSION

# HEARINGS

BEFORE THE

# COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

[redacted]

Date May 5, 1958

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EXECUTIVE SESSION - CONFIDENTIAL

TESTIMONY OF NATHANIEL BOND

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MONDAY, May 5, 1958

House of Representatives,
Committee on Un-American
Activities,
Washington, D. C.

The following staff interview commenced at 2:00 o'clock p.m., in room 226, House Office Building, Washington, D. C.

Present: Mr. Richard Arens, staff director of the committee, and Mr. George Williams, staff investigator.

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Also Present: Mr. Albert J. Gaudan, Notary Public and Stenotype Reporter, Alderson Reporting Company.

Mr. Arens. May we have the oath administered, please?

Mr. Gaudan. Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. Bond. I do.

Mr. Arens. Will you please state your full name?

Mr. Bond. Nathaniel Bond.

Mr. Arens. And your residence?

Mr. Bond. Fayetteville Road, Durham, North Carolina.

Mr. Arens. And your occupation?

Mr. Bond. Instructor of language and director of public relations at the Southeastern Business College in Durham.

Mr. Arens. How long have you been so employed?

Mr. Bond. I was doing a little work in the early part of last year, but really I began work about September of last year.

Mr. Arens. Give us a word about your education, please.

Mr. Bond. I have an AB and MA from North Carolina College in language.

Mr. Arens. And the next education?

Mr. Bond. I have not done any further.

Mr. Arens. Didn't you receive a Master's degree?

Mr. Bond. Yes.

Mr. Arens. Now, tell us the principal employment you have had since you completed your education?

Mr. Bond. I would say the principal one was a teaching job at Bluefield State College in 1955-56.

The other jobs I had were just odd jobs such as a little writing I did for the Norfolk Journal and Guide, the Carolina Times, with my cousin's cream business and poultry and

wholesale business, and various odd jobs.

Mr. Arens. We will not pursue the unemployment.

What job did you have after your employment at Bluefield College?

Mr. Bond. This is the first regular job I have had since that job. Of course, I worked some at home with my brother. He was working in the theatre business.

Mr. Arens. Do you hold a teacher's certificate?

Mr. Bond. Yes, sir.

Mr. Arens. How long have you had that?

Mr. Bond. I believe I got that about 1954. I am not certain but I think it was about 1954.

Mr. Willams. Is that in the state of North Carolina?

Mr. Bond. Yes, sir.

Mr. Arens. Did you serve in the United States Army?

Mr. Bond. Yes, from 1955 to 1957.

Mr. Willams. Did you receive an honorable discharge?

Mr. Bond. Yes.

Mr. Arens. When did you join the Communist Party?

Mr. Bond. I really don't care to get into my discussion [illegible] away of political matters. I did not know that we were going to go into any discussion first away about political matters. I can certainly put opinions about conversations that had with [illegible] conclusions.

Mr. Arens. About when did you join the Communist Party.

please?

Mr. Bond. I am just afraid to say too much about the issue. I am afraid I might say something wrong.

Mr. Arens. Where did you join the Communist Party?

Mr. Bond. I have no reservations about my own stand on it.

Mr. Arens. We understand that. Just tell us where you joined the Communist Party? Was it in North Carolina?

Mr. Bond. I was under the impression that maybe we would have a little time maybe to just discuss the purpose of the trip was, and everything.

Mr. Arens. Did you join the Communist Party in North Carolina?

Mr. Bond. I don't want you to get the wrong impression, I don't want you to even get the impression about where I stayed.

Mr. Arens. Did you join the Communist Party in North Carolina?

Mr. Bond. At the present time I am going through a rather general crisis.

Mr. Arens. We understand that.

Did you join the Communist Party in North Carolina?

Mr. Bond. Could I wait until later on?

Mr. Arens. When did you join the Communist Party?

Mr. Bond. I haven't resolved my crisis to the point where

I am sure what to do or say.

Mr. Arens. We are sure, naturally. You are talking to the United States Government now.

When did you join the Communist Party?

Mr. Bond. I don't know too much about the legal aspects of the whole situation. That is what I am worried about.

Mr. Arens. What was your job just prior to your present job?

Mr. Bond. I worked with my brother. He had a real estate firm and he was operating a theater and I worked with him.

Mr. Arens. What is the name of the schools where you teach now?

Mr. Bond. The Southeastern Business College. It is just a little over a year old.

Mr. Arens. Who is the president of that school?

Mr. Bond. Mr. D. W. Steth.

Mr. Arens. Does Steth know you are down here?

Mr. Bond. Yes, I explained it to him.

Mr. Arens. Does he know about this record here of the last hearing? Does Mr. Steth know about this record of the last hearing?

Mr. Bond. Yes, I told him about that before I started.

Mr. Arens. You told him that you had been in the Communist Party, but now you are not?

Mr. Bond. No, I told him all about the [illegible]

in school in Europe and he knew about my various activities. He went to the same college that I did.

Mr. Arens. He is not a communist, is he?

Mr. Bond. I am not trying to be evasive, but I would like to ask something about procedural matters.

If I were to answer that, would I have to say just everything that I knew?

Mr. Arens. No. Is Mr. Stoth a communist?

Mr. Bond. I was reading an article about somebody -- I believe it was Harvard Law School --

Mr. Arens. Don't worry about that.

Is Mr. Stoth a communist? Can you tell me that?

Mr. Bond. If I say anything, I would be held in contempt.

Mr. Arens. No, we are here to help you.

Mr. Bond. I don't know anything about the legal aspects. I have not discussed this with a lawyer.

Mr. Arens. Is Stoth a communist who runs this school down there?

Mr. Bond. If I answer that I would not be jeopardizing myself?

Mr. Arens. No, you will not be jeopardizing yourself.

Is Stoth a communist?

Mr. Bond. To my knowledge he is not at all. I think he is more of a capitalist. I think most people would agree to that.

Mr. Arens. What is his full name? How do you spell it?

Mr. Bond. David W. S-t-e-t-h.

Mr. Arens. What is the name of that school?

Mr. Bond. The Southeastern Business College.

Mr. Arens. Where?

Mr. Bond. At Durham.

Mr. Arens. Do you know this fellow named Charles Childs?

Mr. Bond. Yes, I know him.

Mr. Arens. Where is he now?

Mr. Bond. I really don't know, but he was at the university.

Mr. Arens. You have not seen him for some time?

Mr. Bond. I have not seen him since the hearings.

Mr. Arens. When did you see him prior to the hearings, sir?

Mr. Bond. I never saw very much of him. I have never seen very much of him. I think I saw more of him during the progressive party days, but I have not seen much of him since that time.

Mr. Arens. Did you ever see him in a closed Communist Party meeting?

Mr. Bond. I don't think so.

Mr. Arens. Can you tell us whether or not this fellow William B. Inkley (BRINKLEY) is a communist?

Mr. Bond. I won't be jeopardizing my position?

Mr. Arens. No, you will not be jeopardizing yourself.

Mr. Bond. In my opinion, he is. Even did as recent

he still is.

Mr. Arens. Where is he now?

Mr. Bond. I got the impression that he is more or less a retired left-winger.

Mr. Arens. He is a farmer?

Mr. Bond. I don't know. It has been so long since I have seen him. He was at the hearing, wasn't he?

Mr. Arens. I believe he was.

Mr. Bond. I have not seen him since then.

Mr. Arens. Who got you into this Daniels Defense Committee?

Mr. Bond. That case originated down in Greenville and the people there set up a local committee and sent a man about the state to try to get other people interested and they seemed to have some difficulty in getting too many people out of town. I think he went first to the Durham Committee on Negro Affairs and then they went to the Progressive Party.

Mr. Arens. Who was head of that Durham Committee on Negro Affairs?

Mr. Bond. J. A. Stuart.

Mr. Arens. How do you spell it?

Mr. Bond. S-t-e-u-a-r-t. He is a member of the City Council there.

Mr. Arens. Is he a communist? You said you thought Brinkley was. Do you know if he is?

Mr. Bond. I would say definitely not. I don't have any reason to believe he was because he is a member of the Democratic Committee. I know he was not interested in the Communist Party. He was in the State Democratic Party.

Mr. Arens. When did you leave the party? Did you just kind of dwindle out, or did you resign, or how did you get out of it?

Mr. Bond. Actually to this day, I don't know how one officially becomes a member of the Communist Party because I have never done any such thing. I imagine you would have to pay dues and get a membership card, or something.

Mr. Arens. I don't think you understood me. How did you get out of the party? Did you just quite the party, or did the party quit you, or were you expelled, or did you resign, or how did you get out of it?

Mr. Bond. I became disinterested in all left-wing activities, myself, a considerable while before I left for Bluefield.

Mr. Arens. That year was that?

Mr. Bond. That was in 1955.

Mr. Arens. Did you submit a written resignation; what? Did you send them a resignation, or did you just quit going?

Mr. Bond. I always considered myself a left-wing individual. I never considered myself a communist. I think other people did, but I never have and within that I don't [illegible]

agreed with all their program.

Mr. Arens. Does not some people agreed with the parts of their program, perhaps during the time I was involved in left-wing activities; perhaps I agreed with some of their activities, but certainly never all of it so for that reason I considered myself an individual.

Mr. Arens. Who were some of the members of the Communist Party down there? Childs was, of course. Was an undercover agent?

Mr. Bond. It seems to me that most of the people were giving the impression that they were certainly left-wingers and it is very difficult to tell who was and who was not.

Mr. Arens. Where did you see Penya, the fellow who came down to see you the other day? Where did you see him before?

Mr. Bond. He said he had been down several years ago and had seen me, but I couldn't remember the exact situation he was talking about.

Mr. Arens. Where did he say he saw you?

Mr. Bond. He may have seen me. He said he came by my house on Lawson Street, but as I told him, I thought that at that time I was out in the country with my mother. I think I was living out there at that time, but I may have seen him. I don't know.

Mr. Arens. Who all did you know who were out at Brinkley's farm out at Walnut Farms about 1952? Childs was

there, was he not? Childs said that that is where he saw you. Who else was there besides Childs?

Mr. Bond. That is one of those questions I need to think about. I want to be cooperative.

Mr. Arens. Just think a while.

Who was there besides Childs?

Mr. Bond. He may have in mind the same thing. There may be something else. I was never sure then that was brought up in Charlotte that they were talking about the same thing that I had in mind.

Mr. Willians. You remember being at Walnut Grove, don't you?

Mr. Bond. Yes, I think I have been there.

Mr. Arens. Who else was there?

Mr. Bond. Just as a matter of information, he said this was definitely a school, did he not, and that it was a week long?

Mr. Arens. Who said that?

Mr. Bond. I thought somebody mentioned that at Charlotte. Childs, I think, mentioned at Charlotte.

Mr. Arens. Did you go out there for that week?

Mr. Bond. Yes, I may have [redacted] there, but I had [redacted] about those meetings.

Mr. Arens. All right. A Communist Party cell, was it?

Mr. Arens. You never had a Communist Party card?

Mr. Bond. No.

Mr. Arens. Did you ever pay any dues?

Mr. Bond. No.

Mr. Arens. Did you ever give Childs any money?

Mr. Bond. I believe he worked for Daniels Defense; not/that I recall. I knew him, but I did not associate with him that much or I didn't see him, much of him, so I would doubt seriously that I would ever have had any occasion to give him any money.

Mr. Williams. Were you on the Durham section committee of the Communist Party?

Mr. Bond. I don't remember that name.

Mr. Williams. Did you know such a group existed as a Durham group of the Communist Party?

Mr. Bond. No, I never heard of it by that name.

Mr. Arens. Several days ago were you trying to sell an airplane ticket or sell a transportation ticket of some kind?

Mr. Bond. No, I never had an airplane ticket but once. That was when I went to Alabama.

Mr. Williams. What did you go to Alabama for?

Mr. Bond. I went to the NAACP convention, representing the Durham branch. I went because somebody else couldn't make the trip so they took me. That is the only occasion I had to ride on an airplane.

Mr. Arens. Do you know of any communists around Durham?

Mr. Bond. Frankly, now, I don't know anybody that I think is a communist. There may be a few who may have been communists.

Mr. Arens. Who are they?

Mr. Bond. Well, some of the people perhaps who were working with the Progressive Party.

Mr. Arens. What are their names?

Mr. Bond. I couldn't say specifically because I wouldn't want to give any misrepresentations about any of them.

Mr. Arens. Give us your best recollection of who you think were communists?

Mr. Bond. As I said, that is the type of question that bothers me so much.

Mr. Arens. This is not a public session.

Who are they, Pat?

Mr. Bond. I hate to do it.

Mr. Arens. I know you hate to do it, but do it anyway.

Mr. Bond. I hate to state any misinformation because I think some of the people in Durham, particularly Negroes who were in the Progressive Party, they thought they were communists because they were in the Progressive Party, so it is pretty misleading to me.

Mr. Arens. We understand and we do not want to hurt

anybody, but you are now in a confidential session with the United States Government and we want to know their names now.

Mr. Bond. I can give you names of people who were with the Progressive Party, such as Mr. L. E. Austin, editor of the Carolina Times. He ran on the Progressive Party ticket.

Mr. Arens. Was he a Communist?

Mr. Bond. I really don't know, but I doubt it.

Mr. Arens. Let's have another name.

Mr. Bond. I think at that time he was more or less a left-wing individualist.

Mr. Williams. Is he from Durham?

Mr. Bond. Yes, he has been in the newspaper business.

Mr. Williams. Is his paper in Durham?

Mr. Bond. Yes, sir. I think he has been there about thirty years.

Of course, there is Lawyer Pearson who was on the state committee. That is pretty well known. He is the chairman of the NAACP state legal committee.

Mr. Arens. Was he a Communist?

Mr. Bond. I regarded him just as a left winger.

Mr. Arens. Let's have another name, now, please.

Mr. Bond. Mr. Michael in Asheville, was a member of the state executive committee.

It is either Michael or Nicklas. I think it is Michael.

Mr. Williams. From Asheville, North Carolina?

Mr. Bond. Yes.

I have tried so hard to forget about some of this.

Mr. Arens. Who else were communists?

Mr. Bond. I have heard people from time to time say that they considered themselves communists, but I didn't believe them all the time. Actually, about the only person who would go around saying it was somebody like Mr. Freistadt. He was petitioning for the Progressive Party. He admitted that he was a communist to anybody.

Mr. Williams. What is his first name?

Mr. Bond. Hans.

As I said, we doubt there were a lot of people who regarded me as a communist, but I always regarded myself as more or a middle socialist, really.

Mr. Arens. Freistadt thinks you are a communist. We told him we don't think you are, that we think you have gotten out of the party.

Mr. Bond. Really, I don't belong to any organizations at all of any kind. I don't even belong to the NAACP any more, because I don't -- I am not worried too much about the members because they can see what I am doing or not doing, but some people might get a misunderstanding that I am using the NAACP, so for that reason for several years I have ceased to be a member of any organization.

Mr. Arens. Were you in the Communist Party in 1954?

Mr. Bond. I didn't consider myself a member of the party.

Mr. Arens. Did the Communist party consider you a member then?

Mr. Bond. I don't think so.

Mr. Arens. When did the Communist Party think that you were no longer a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. Bond. That, I couldn't answer, because I have never agreed with their program entirely. I think most people realized it and just regarded me as an individual mostly, I think.

Mr. Willians. How could two or three people be mistaken about you, saying that you were in the Communist Party and you say to your knowledge you never were?

Mr. Bond. Because I engaged in several left-wing activities.

Mr. Willians. Did you ever attend any regular meetings, every week, or every month?

Mr. Bond. I don't think I ever attended any regular meetings of any kind of a left-wing nature.

Mr. Williams. Did you ever attend any left-wing meetings?

Mr. Bond. I may have attended meetings that people considered as communist meetings.

Mr. Williams. How did you consider them?

Mr. Bond. I always believed that I would work with anybody on specific issues and not necessarily agree with their overall objectives.

Mr. Arens. But these were communist meetings?

Mr. Willens. What did you consider these meetings? They must have been meetings of some type?

Mr. Bond. Well, there may have been.

Mr. Arens. You knew they were, didn't you, Mr?

Mr. Bond. I knew they were left-wing; that is right.

Mr. Arens. Tell us the name of every person you knew who was a communist. Whether they are now, or not; we don't care. Just give us the name and address of every person you knew who was a communist.

Mr. Bond. I am afraid to say because I am afraid I would be giving misinformation.

Mr. Arens. Just give us your best information, then?

Mr. Bond. Then, too, I don't think many of the people who were engaged in left-wing activities had any intentions of being disloyal about it.

Mr. Arens. To understand that. Just tell us the names of every person you knew as a communist?

Mr. Bond. I am afraid people that I consider innocent —

Mr. Arens. We just want you to tell us now the name of every person whom you knew to be a communist. You're the first one! Let's get down the first name now that you knew as a communist. Whether they are now, or not, is another proposition. Remember you are under oath, Mr.

Mr. Bond. I don't want to give any misinformation.

Mr. Arens. Who is the first one you knew as a communist?

Mr. Bond. I think Scalo and Mr. Frolstadt; I believe the Communist Party down there was a pretty much disorganized --

Mr. Arens. How did you know Scalo was a communist?

Mr. Bond. He would just admit it to anybody.

Mr. Arens. Did he tell you he was a communist?

Mr. Bond. I think so.

Mr. Arens. What?

Mr. Bond. I think so.

Mr. Arens. When did he tell you he was a communist?

Mr. Bond. I think it was sometime during the Progressive Party.

Mr. Arens. Did you ever been/a closed Communist Party meeting with him?

Mr. Bond. I think it was in 1948 or sometime thereabouts.

Mr. Arens. And you ever been in a closed Communist Party meeting with him?

Mr. Bond. I may have.

Mr. Arens. Where do you think this closed Communist Party meeting with Scalo took place?

Mr. Bond. I wouldn't be too certain. I just heard people talking and just heard discussions about politics.

Mr. Arens. Who else did you know as a communist down there besides Scalo?

Mr. Bond. You know, I really don't think that most of the people who considered themselves Communists were actually Communists from thepoint of view of accepting the program or even knowing the program fully. That is my impression from just conversations I had.

Mr. Williams. To get back to these meetings you attended, Mr, you said that you attended some meetings, but you were not sure just what type of meetings they were.

What did you discuss at these meetings?

Mr. Bond. I have been at meetings in which wediscussed civil rights, in meetings in which we discussed the NAACP.

Mr. Williams. Who sponsored these meetings?

Mr. Bond. Left-Wing groups. It was not necessarily all wings. I had been with people on social occasions and it is my opinion that a good bit of the left-wing activity probably was carried on in a rather casual manner, and I think that made for some of the confusion among peoples as to what they were and what they were not.

Mr. Williams. Where were these meetings held?

Mr. Bond. At church meetings, on campuses.

Mr. Williams. On what campuses?

Mr. Bond. Duke University and the University of North Carolina.

Mr. Williams. Were they all open meetings? Could anyone who wanted to get

Mr. Bond. I wouldn't say all of them were. I wouldn't even classify them as meetings.

Mr. Williams. Gatherings, then, or whatever you want to call them. Could anyone go?

Mr. Bond. Perhaps not all because in some cases I guess they would not table them as meetings.

Yes, some of them were restricted, of course, to left-wingers. I mean nobody else was invited.

Mr. Williams. There were these meetings, these restricted meetings held, but?

Mr. Bond. Just any where.

Mr. Williams. In a person's room on a campus, or in a public building, or where?

Mr. Bond. I think most of the discussions were maybe with people riding or just stopping on the campus and sitting down outside or something like that.

Mr. Williams. How many people would be at these restricted meetings, or gatherings, or get-togethers?

Mr. Bond. Well, just a handful, two or three or four people, something like that.

Mr. Williams. Didn't the thought enter your mind that these were restricted meetings that the average person couldn't go that there must be something unusual about them?

Mr. Bond. Well, in that they involved left-wing activities, and nobody else would be interested in the problem.

Mr. Williams. You keep using this word "left-wing". Let's face it squarely. You know these were Communist Party meetings. I never heard of any left-wing meetings being closed. They were Communist Party meetings, were they not?

Mr. Bond. I have talked and met and discussed with people casually on many occasions whereyou wouldn't call it a meeting. We would just be riding around.

Mr. Williams. Were they prearranged meetings?

Mr. Bond. They were or less had to be.

Mr. Williams. Who arranged them?

Mr. Bond. Well, most of the people I knew were people who were associated with Daniels Defense Committee or the Peace and Goodwill Council, most of them were students.

Mr. Arens. Tell Mr. Williams who they were, and raise your voice again, please, sir?

Mr. Bond. The members of the Peace and Goodwill Council were Mr. Fiore and myself.

Mr. Williams. Is that Betty Fiore?

Mr. Bond. That is right.

Mr. Williams. She was a member of the Communist Party, was she not?

Mr. Bond. I don't know.

Mr. Williams. Didn't she marry George Yaroslavsky?

Mr. Bond. Yes.

Mr. Williams. George Yaroslavsky was a member of the Communist

Party, was he not?

Mr. Bond. Most of these people I am not sure whether they were actually communists or not.

Mr. Williams. These are some of the people you had pre-arranged meetings with, Betsy Fiore, George VanCamp?

Mr. Bond. They were members of the Peace Council.

Mr. Williams. Why did you meet separately? These were members of the Communist Party meeting, before a general meeting of the Defense Committee, was it not?

Mr. Bond. We had executive meetings before the big meeting.

Mr. Williams. Were you an officer?

Mr. Bond. In the Peace Council?

Mr. Williams. Yes.

Mr. Bond. Yes, I was a co-chairman.

Mr. Williams. Who were the other officers?

Mr. Bond. We didn't have much of a setup.

Mr. Williams. You said you had executive meetings, so you must have had some setup.

Mr. Bond. Just two or three other people who were interested would get together. Really that organization did very little and maybe we would just put an article in a newspaper one or two times or maybe get a speaker, and that is about all it did. It didn't do much. We had hoped maybe to get people in the churches active in it, but it never did reach that stage.

Mr. Williams. Who would set the policyfor the Defense Committee?

Mr. Bond. I was speaking of the Peace Council.

Mr. Williams. Who would set the policy for the Peace Council?

Mr. Bond. It didn't seem to have any strict policy. Just a few people would get together and work out an agenda and decide on a speaker.

Mr. Williams. Who were some of these few people who got together on the Peace Council?

Mr. Bond. Miss Tiere, myself, Miss Hunter, or Mrs. Hunter.

Mr. Williams. Is she a white person, Mrs. Hunter?

Mr. Bond. Yes, from Duke University.

Mr. Williams. What were her duties at Duke University? Was she a teacher, a student, or a professor?

Mr. Bond. I think she was some kind of a technician in the hospital, I am not sure.

Mr. Williams. What was her first name?

Mr. Bond. Sylvia Hunter.

Mr. Williams. H-u-n-t-e-r?

Mr. Bond. Yes.

Mr. Williams. Was she a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. Bond. I don't think I could say definitely whether she was or not. She was a left-winger all right.

Mr. Williams. Who else?

Mr. Bond. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson.

Mr. Williams. That is Bill Robinson?

Mr. Bond. Yes.

Mr. Williams. You know he was a member of the Communist Party, do you not, and so was his wife?

Mr. Bond. I don't know. I always regarded him as being more left-wing than she was.

Mr. Williams. Some of these people that you have mentioned such as the VanCamps, Robinsons, Betty Millard, have all been identified by other people as being members of the Communist Party. You met these people yet you refer to them as left-wing activities.

Is it that you just don't want to admit to yourself that you were a member of the Communist Party. We brought you up here to help us and we want to help you.

Mr. Bond. I never considered myself in full agreement with the program.

Mr. Williams. I don't care whether you are in sympathy with them. You were a member of the party, weren't you? I think it is fairly obvious that you were not in sympathy with them because you went out of it.

Mr. Bond. I would say some people regarded me as a member.

Mr. Arens. Who regarded you as a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. Bond. I guess some of these people who were involved in these left-wing groups that I was talking about.

Mr. Arens. Do you want to cooperate with this committee and tell us everything you know and help the government?

Mr. Bond. Yes.

Mr. Arens. Mat, do you want to cooperate with us?

Mr. Williams. Do you want to cooperate with us, Mat?

Mr. Bond. Certainly. I certainly wish to become disassociated with all left-wing activities.

Mr. Arens. If you want to cooperate with us, tell us when you were in the Communist Party. We know you were in, but we want you to tell us. We want to hear it from your mouth and from your lips.

When were you in the Communist Party?

Mr. Bond. I would say people may have considered me as being a member maybe a couple of years or so after the Progressive Party days, but after that time I gradually became disassociated with any organization.

Mr. Arens. We know you were a member of the Communist Party. We know you knew you were a member of the Communist Party. You are now under oath. We want you to tell us now while you are under oath -- from your own lips we want to hear it -- when you were in the Communist Party and when you got out.

Now, just tell us that.

Mr. Bond. I don't think any definite dates could be fixed

as to what people regarded that.

Mr. Williams. When did you leave the Communist Party, Nat?

Mr. Bond. As far as associating with the people that may have been communists, I would say after most of these left-wing activities such as the Daniel Committee and things, were terminated. I just became gradually disassociated with all these people. It was just gradually. I ran into some people and I would just tell them so, and maybe some people would come out and see me, or something like that, but I just more or less drifted away from all left-wing activities and gradually I just can't say a definite date.

Mr. Arens. Did you join the Communist Party, Nat? I want you now on this record either to tell us "Yes, I joined the Communist Party", or else I want you to say "No, I never joined the Communist Party."

Now, you say either one or the other, Did you join the Communist Party? You either tell us you did or did not.

Mr. Bond. If I answer that to the best of my ability, would that mean anything against me in legal proceedings?

I think I would have to preface that statement with this remark: I never actually went there through a procedure of becoming a member. Certainly I am sure there are certain steps that have to be taken before one can become a member such as

paying some money. I think Mr. Powell said registered, but I don't think I ever went through those procedures, so I would say for that reason that technically speaking I haven't been a communist.

I am not denying my association with these people at all, say, from, I think, about the end of 1952 to somewhere in 1953.

Mr. Arens. Did you become a communist even though you did not actually pay dues or have a card, Mr? You are apparently making some kind of a distinction between a communist who pays dues and one who does not. Did you become a communist even though you didn't pay dues or get a card?

Mr. Bond. I don't think I ever became a communist because I did not agree with their program. I never really agreed with all of their program.

I would say I was more closely related to the extreme left-wings between 1953 than any other time, but after that my -- all my left-wing associations more or less dwindled.

I may have seen people from this time to that time.

Mr. Arens. Mr. Bond, were you ever been a communist?

Mr. Bond. My answer to that would be that I have never regarded myself as a communist and that I never agreed fully with the precepts of the Communist Party.

Mr. Arens. Have you ever [illegible] in a closed Communist Party meeting?

Mr. Bond. I may have.

Mr. Arens. I didn not ask you if you may have. I asked you if you have.

Mr. Bond. Probably so.

Mr. Arens. I didn't ask you that.

Have you served in a closed Communist Party meeting?

Mr. Bond. If I answered that, would it be used against me?

Mr. Arens. Have you ever served in a closed Communist Party meeting?

Mr. Bond. I don't know the legal aspects of this. The only person that I know who made that statement was Mr. Childs.

Mr. Arens. Have you ever served in a closed Communist Party meeting?

Mr. Bond. I may have. That is the best way I can put it.

Mr. Arens. Where?

Mr. Bond. In my home town.

Mr. Arens. Where is your home town?

Mr. Bond. As I said, probably just talking to people in cars.

Mr. Arens. Who?

Mr. Bond. That is my major problem, who?

Mr. Arens. That is our problem, too. Just tell us who.

Mr. Bond. I named a number of people I associated with.

Mr. Arens. We are going to close the record very soon, but. Who was it that you talked to in this car in a closed Party meeting?

Mr. Bond. I have been trying to think of those things because I have not resolved the conflict I have, because of my opinion that many people in extremely left-wing activities didn't fully support that program.

Mr. Arens. Who is the person that you were in those closed party meetings with in the car?

Mr. Bond. I would like to think that over because it is too difficult for me.

Mr. Arens. Are you just going to tell us? Just say yes or no.

Mr. Bond. I would answer that by saying I would like to answer it now, but I would like more time. I don't think I could make the decision now.

Mr. Arens. You are not going to tell us?

Mr. Bond. I am not able to make the decision now.

Mr. Arens. What decision?

Mr. Bond. I mean just to saying everything that I suspect or know.

Mr. Arens. Who was in that car in that closed Communist Party meeting with you?

The record is closed.

(Thereupon, at 2:15 p.m., the staff meeting was concluded).